



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/714,694

11/17/2003

Lowell R. Wedemeyer

CheekAir

5398

41360 7590 04/01/2009  
LOWELL R. WEDEMEYER  
719 YARMOUTH ROAD, SUITE 204  
PALOS VERDES ESTATES, CA 90274

EXAMINER

JACKSON, BRANDON LEE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3772

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/01/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/714,694	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WEDEMEYER, LOWELL R.	
	<b>Examiner</b> BRANDON JACKSON	<b>Art Unit</b> 3772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 33-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 33-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

In view of the appeal brief filed on 11/5/2008, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection are set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

/Patricia Bianco/.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 33-43 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claim fails to set forth any additional structure. Moreover, Applicant uses the term "improved," but fails to specify what is improved and how it is improved.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 33-34, 40-41, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cameron (US Patent 1,389,436). Cameron discloses a cheek pouch anchor (fig. 1) comprising a coil spring (6) to be placed within a user's cheek pouch (Lines 61-66) that compresses as the user's jaw closes and expand as the jaw opens because the anchor (fig. 1) is a resilient coil spring (6). The anchor (fig. 1) maintains a span across the user's inter occlusal space and a user's lip opening as the user's jaws and lips open and close (p. 1, lines 97-105). The anchor has sufficient structural strength to receive a work piece (p. 1, lines 75-83). The anchor (fig. 1) is capable of carrying a substance that can be released in to the mouth of the user because it is fully

Art Unit: 3772

capable of being coated in a flavoring, antiseptic, antibacterial, or any other coating deemed necessary by the physician. That coating would inherently be released in the mouth upon insertion of the anchor (fig. 1) into the oral cavity. The coil spring (6) is of Nickel, which is a metal (p. 2, lines 30-35). The adapted to language used in claim 1 does not further limit the particular structure claimed. It merely list steps the device should optionally be able to perform. See MPEP 2111.04 [R-3]. The Cameron device is capable of being placed within a user's cheek pouch, compressing when the user's jaw closes, resiliently expanding to form a bridge spanning across a user's inter occlusal space and a user's lip opening formed as a user's jaws and lips open and close, receiving joinder to a work piece, and having enough structural strength when joined with a work piece to maintain placement within a user's cheek pouch while a user's lips and jaws open and close.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.

Art Unit: 3772

2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 35 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron (US Patent 1,389,436) in view of Rodriguez (US Patent 6,428,316).

Cameron substantially discloses the claimed invention; see rejection to claims 33 and 41 above. Cameron fails to disclose the fluid conduit joined to the anchor. However, Rodriguez teaches a fluid conduit (17) that can be coupled to an anchor (fig. 1) by inserting it through the center of the coil spring (6), and used during dental procedures. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the Cameron device with the fluid conduit, as taught by Rodriguez, in order to remove excess saliva or other fluids from the user's mouth during procedures.

Claims 36 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron (US Patent 1,389,436) in view of Seyler (US Patent 4,889,327).

Cameron substantially discloses the claimed invention; see rejection to claim 33 above. Cameron fails to explicitly state the coil spring (6) comprises a plurality of loops or merely one. However, it is well known in the art that coil springs can vary the number of loops in order to vary the force applied by the spring. Moreover, Seyler teaches a spring (30) comprising a plurality of loops (31). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the Cameron device to have a plurality of loops, as taught by Seyler, in order to vary the force applied by the device for specific users because the increased number of loops would increase the strength of

Art Unit: 3772

the spring by distributing the force over more springs. The spring element Cameron/Seyler device has a span size and the span size is adjustable such that when the span size of one of the loops is increased or decreased, it increases or decreases the span size of an adjacent loop; thereby enabling adjustment of the whole spring element span size. This adjustment means occurs because the anchor is made of one continuous piece of material.

Claims 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron (US Patent 1,389,436) in view of Diaz (US Patent 4,041,937). Cameron substantially discloses the claimed invention; see rejection to claim 33 above. Cameron fails to disclose an impregnation or a coating on the spring element to be released in the mouth of the user. However, Diaz teaches antiseptic coatings (col. 1, lines 48-61) disposed upon medical device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the Cameron device with the antiseptic coating, as taught by Diaz, in order to sanitize the device provide a pleasant taste in the user's mouth. The adapted to language used in claim 1 does not further limit the particular structure claimed. It merely list steps the device should optionally be able to perform. See MPEP 2111.04 [R-3]. The Cameron/Diaz device is capable of being placed within a user's cheek pouch, compressing when the user's jaw closes, resiliently expanding to form a bridge spanning across a user's inter occlusal space and a user's lip opening formed as a user's jaws and lips open and close, receiving joinder to a work piece, and having enough structural strength when joined

Art Unit: 3772

with a work piece to maintain placement within a user's cheek pouch while a user's lips and jaws open and close.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Fehrman (US Patent 2,651,300); Taljaard (US Patent Application Publication 2005/0252514).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRANDON JACKSON whose telephone number is (571)272-3414. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco can be reached on (571)272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Art Unit: 3772

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patricia Bianco/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3772

03/30/09